

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

April 23, 1997

Planning Retreat

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for its planning retreat at the Ramada Plaza Resort Hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President
Mrs. Lil Tuttle, Vice President
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.
Mrs. Kay James

Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Senator John W. Russell
Mr. Lee Ware
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
Secretary and Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Tuttle and Mrs. Yecke pointed out that two names were misspelled on page 25 of the March 1997 minutes and should be corrected. The correct spelling of the names is ALil@ and AWitthoefft.@ Mrs. Yecke made a motion for approval of the minutes of the March 1997 meeting. Copies of the minutes have been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patterson and carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Easton pulled Item D, Guidelines on Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, from the consent agenda.

The motion was made by Senator Russell, seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda.

Highlight on Students

The Ocean Lakes High School Jazz/Swing Ensemble, A Dolphin Swing, sang for the Board of Education and guests. They were led by Mr. David L. C. Prescott, teacher/director of the Ocean Lakes High School choral program.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. James made a motion to adopt the following items on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund
Loans
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund
Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tuttle and carried unanimously.

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of February 28, 1997, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of four new applications in the amount of \$13,157,000 subject to final approval by the office of the Attorney General was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY, TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT

Smyth County	Marion Senior High School	\$157,000.00
Chesapeake City	Deep Creek High School	3,000,000.00
Prince George County	New Middle School	5,000,000.00
Poquoson City	Poquoson High School	5,000,000.00
		\$13,157,000.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation is that funds be released for one project in the amount of \$1,155,140 was approved by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Russell County	Honaker High	\$1,155,140.00
	TOTAL	\$1,155,140.00

Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation is that funding for four projects in the amount of \$18,000,000 be deferred and the projects be placed on the First Priority Waiting List.

First Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Chesapeake City	Deep Creek High	\$3,000,000.00
Prince George County	New Middle School	5,000,000.00
Poquoson City	Poquoson High	5,000,000.00
Richmond City	Southside Middle	5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$18,000,000.00

ACTION ITEM

Guidelines on Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Joan Murphy of the Attorney General's office stated that the Board previously received the guidelines and copies were sent to organizations that requested them.

The motion was made by Mrs. James that the Board of Education Guidelines on Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance with the correction of number 4 to read "will be required" instead of "can be required," be printed as proposed guidelines in the Virginia Register. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board of Education go into executive session under *Virginia Code* '2.1-344.A.6 to discuss investing of public funds for competition and bargaining as involved related to assessment, '2.1-344.A.11 to discuss test, examination, and documents relating to student performance and to receive the advice of counsel regarding legal issues relating to assessment. Senator Russell seconded the motion and the Board went into executive session at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board certify by roll call that to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session that this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Board Roll Call:

Ms. Easton - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Mr. Harris - Aye
Mrs. James - Aye
Mr. Patterson - Aye
Senator Russell - Aye
Mrs. Yecke - Aye

Mr. Ware abstained from the motion but noted his concurrence with its substance.

The Board reconvened in a public session at 10:40 a.m.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Mr. Harris stated that Hanover County Public Schools received the 1996 award for continuing excellence under the Virginia Forum for Excellence and that he congratulated the Hanover County officials for the Board. Mr. Harris noted that President Bush and Senators from the Commonwealth also attended this meeting.

Mrs. Yecke and Mrs. James read letters they had received from students concerning the Standards of Accreditation. Senator Russell also made a comment on a letter he had received.

Standards of Accreditation

Dr. Doug Carnine, Consultant to the Department of Education, served as facilitator and led an informal discussion on the proposed Standards of Accreditation. The panel consisted of the following: (1) George McGovern, Principal, Landstown Middle School, (2) Bob Patterson, Principal, William Byrd High School, (3) Carl James, Principal, Burton High School, (4) Donald Alvey, Principal, Smithfield High School (5) Richard Trumble, Superintendent, Portsmouth City Schools, and (6) Jane Massey-Wilson, Superintendent, Town of West Point Public Schools. The discussion focused on student issues, school issues, and accountability issues.

Some suggestions made during the panel discussion were:

1. To phase the Standards of Accreditation in over a three-year period.
2. Move Earth Science and Algebra to the eighth grade and merge Geography into World Studies on the 9th and 10th grade levels. This would give students three more spaces for electives.
3. The end-of-course tests need to be correlated with the SOLs.

Dr. Carnine asked the panel to send him any ideas they may have on how to set up a school accountability system that will not encourage moving kids away from the academic core.

Adjournment

Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting for the evening at 3:30 p.m.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

April 24, 1997

Planning Retreat Continued

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for its planning retreat at the Ramada Plaza Resort Hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on Thursday, April 24, 1997, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President
Mrs. Lil Tuttle, Vice President
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.
Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.

Senator John W. Russell
Mr. Lee Ware
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
Secretary and Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

Discussion of Proposed Standards of Accreditation

Board members continued the discussion on the Standards of Accreditation and public hearings they had attended.

Mr. Harris stated that most of the people at the public hearing he chaired in Henrico County at Highland Springs High School urged the Board to keep options open for students who wish to take vocational education courses.

Mrs. Yecke chaired the public hearing in West Point. She stated that most of the speakers were concerned about when the new standards should be introduced. Concerns were also expressed about what grade level students can take Earth Science, and when students should take elective subjects. Mrs. Yecke said that one speaker stated that the Board had not addressed the issues of safe laboratories in the proposed standards.

Senator Russell chaired the public hearing in Fairfax County. He said that most of the speakers were teachers and that now he would like to hear from more parents. He also said

that most of the letters written to him were concerned about vocational education courses.

Ms. Easton chaired the public hearing in Leesburg. She stated that several people at the hearing and in letters written to her asked for the following: (1) clarification of tests, (2) to make physics a required course, and (3) to use the Standards of Accreditation to create regulatory public charter schools.

Ms. Easton requested Board members to forward letters received from the public to Mr. Charles Finley, Principal Specialist for Policy Analysis.

Mr. Patterson said that most of the letters he had received were concerned about vocational education. Mr. Patterson will chair the public hearing in Abingdon on April 30.

Mr. Ware chaired the public hearing in Staunton. The main topics that came out of that meeting were about vocational education, additional cost the new standards would require, and the timing for introduction of the proposed standards. There was also an objection to a state mandate for elementary schools to have a certain number of hours or percentage of time in core instruction.

Mrs. Tuttle chaired the public hearings in Patrick County, Staunton and Henrico. She said that there was strong support for the proposed Standards of Accreditation. Mrs. Tuttle also said that there seemed to be different needs in the standard diploma and advanced diploma. Mrs. Tuttle urged other Board members to read the article, "Accountability in the 1990's Holding Schools Responsible for Student Achievement" which *The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)* published.

Dr. La Pointe said that he had attended fourteen public hearings and most of the speakers supported higher standards and were mostly concerned about Vocational Education.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 10:55 a.m.

President

